

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**REMARKS**

This is a full and timely response to the final Office Action mailed December 19, 2002. Upon entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-13, 15-17, and 19-25 are pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 and 12-20 have been finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,044,582 to Johnson (herein after "Johnson") in view of Japanese Publication JP 11169596A (herein after "Yaman") and claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson as modified as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Applicant's Admission, pages 3-4 and Figure 1 of current application (Admission).

Applicant traverses all of the rejections of the Office Action. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application and presently pending claims is respectfully requested.

I. Response To Claim Rejections Based on Obviousness

The Examiner has failed to properly show a teaching or suggestion to combine Johnson and Yaman. Arguing innuendo that there is a teaching or suggestion, Applicant contends that neither Johnson nor Yaman teach or suggest a ledge spaced from the spacer for restricting movement of the biasing member as is presently claimed in independent claims 1 and 12.

Applicant respectfully submits that since claims 2-11 depend from independent claim 1, claims 2-11 contain all the limitations of independent claim

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.

130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

1. Since independent claim 1 should be allowable, as argued above, pending dependent claims 2-11 should be allowable as a matter of law for at least this reason. In re Fine, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1596, 1608 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that since claims 13-20 depend from independent claim 12, claims 13-20 contain all the limitations of independent claim 12. Since independent claim 12 should be allowable, as argued above, pending dependent claims 13-20 should be allowable as a matter of law for at least this reason. In re Fine, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1596, 1608 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

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BEST AVAILABLE COPY**II. Newly Added Claims**

Claims 21-25 have been added to better define Applicant's invention.

Applicant believes newly added claims 21 and 22 are patentable over the cited references at least because Johnson and Yaman both fail to disclose protrusions extending towards each other and angled towards the spacer as is claimed. Claims 23-25 are patentable over the cited references at least because Johnson and Yaman fail to disclose a lip stop.

An example of support for newly added claims 21 and 22 can be found in the specification of the presently pending application on page 5, line 5 through page 6, line 20.

An example of support for newly added claims 23-25 can be found in the specification of the presently pending application on page 5, lines 19-20 and at page 6, lines 19-20. No new matter is believed to have been added.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.

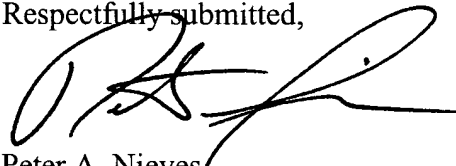
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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and rejections have been traversed, rendered moot and/or accommodated, and that presently pending claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-13, 15-17, and 19-25 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and the presently pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter A. Nieves
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 48,173

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 19, 2003 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By: Kristine Steweb

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.

130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
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